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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-236

The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT North America, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to:
ans-editor at amsat dot org.

In this edition:

* Ballot Return Date is September 15
* Two-Minute Engineering Video Update Available
* New Distance Records
* ORI's Digital Microwave Broadband Communication System Determined to be Free of ITAR
* SmallSat 2020 Virtual Conference Proceedings Available Online
* Upcoming Satellite Operations
* ARISS News
* Satellite Shorts from All Over

SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-236.01
ANS-236 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 236.01
>From AMSAT HQ KENSINGTON, MD.
August 23, 2020
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-236.01

Ballot Return Date is September 15

With four weeks of balloting remaining, I think a reminder of procedures is warranted.

Ballots for the AMSAT board of directors election must be received by 5 p.m. US Eastern Time on Tuesday, September 15. If you have received your ballot and wish to vote, please mail your ballot with sufficient time to arrive by this time.

If you have not received your ballot and were a member of AMSAT on July 1, please email me at brennanprice(a)verizon.net to request a replacement ballot. All such requests that were made by today

(Monday, August 17) have been fulfilled no later than today.

A note to non-US based members: The printed return envelope does not specify that the return address is in the United States. The design of the envelope (my effort alone) may be fairly criticized on this basis. Several non-US members have added USA to the printed return address and successfully returned the ballot. This is my recommended remedy, but if for whatever reason it's too late for that (and I know of one such case), I will gladly send a replacement (as I have in said case).

I am verifying envelopes against the voter list and keeping them unopened until the time of counting, when they will be opened face down and separated from the ballot without immediate counting to maintain secrecy. This is a key part of verifying that each ballot going out generates no more than one ballot coming back in. Presumably out of an understandable but self-defeating desire to ensure the secrecy of the ballot beyond this procedure, about ten members have sought to obscure the return address or use a different envelope, either with no return address or a different return address.

In all but one of those cases, the printed address was insufficiently obscured, or the alternate address was traceable to a member who had not yet voted. The attention required to verify the nonconforming envelope in each case substantially exceeded the attention normally necessary, and actually increased the possibility of me inadvertently discerning the contents without opening the envelope through inspection I would ordinarily forego. Nevertheless, these envelopes have been accepted for eventual accounting.

[ANS thanks Brennan Price, N4QX, AMSAT Secretary for the above information.]

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You can view Jerry's update at: https://youtu.be/9H4iM1hoVG4.

[ANS thanks Jerry Buxton, N0JY, Vice President-Engineering for the above information.]

New Distance Records

Congratulations to Jerome LeCuyer, F4DXV and Joseph Werth, KE9AJ on extending their record distance on AO-7 by another 140 km! The new record stands at 8,204.592 km. KE9AJ was in DM79IQ58 and F4DXV was in JN14CH76.

Jerome also claimed two other records during his trip to JN14. First, on 10-Aug-2020, he worked VE1VOX in Nova Scotia on AO-92, a distance of 5,011 km. Three days later, a QSO with Nathan White, N5LEX in FN11 set a new record distance covered of 6,183 km on AO-91. The QSO occurred at 13:37 UTC on 13-Aug-2020.

[ANS thanks Paul Stoetzer, N8MH, AMSAT Executive Vice President for the above information.]

ORI's Digital Microwave Broadband Communication System Determined to be Free of ITAR

The United States Department of State has ruled favorably on Open Research Institute's commodity jurisdiction request, finding that specified “Information and Software for a Digital Microwave Broadband Communications System for Space and Terrestrial Amateur Radio Use” is not subject to State Department jurisdiction under ITAR, the International Traffic in Arms Regulations.

Export regulations divide both technical information and actual hardware into three categories. The most heavily restricted technologies fall under ITAR, which is administered by the State Department. Technologies subject to more routine restrictions fall under EAR, the Export Administration Regulations, administered by the Department of Commerce. Technologies that are not subject to either set of regulations are not restricted for export.

On 20 February 2020, Open Research Institute (ORI) filed a Commodity Jurisdiction (CJ) Request with the US State Department, seeking to establish that key technologies for amateur radio are not subject to State Department jurisdiction. “Information and Software for a Digital Microwave Broadband Communications System for Space and Terrestrial Amateur Radio Use” was assigned the case number CJ0003120. On 11 August 2020, the case received a successful final determination: the technology is not subject to State Department jurisdiction.

The Final Determination letter can be found at https://tinyurl.com/ANS-236-ORI

[ANS thanks Open Research Institute, Inc., for the above information]

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https://tinyurl.com/ANS-GOLF

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ARISS News

* Upcoming Contacts:

Kopernik Observatory & Science Center, Vestal, NY, direct via K2ZRO

The ISS callsign is presently scheduled to be NA1SS
The scheduled astronaut is Chris Cassidy KF5KDR
Contact is go for: Wed 2020-08-19 18:21:55 UTC 85 deg

Watch for live stream starting about 20 to 30 minutes ahead
of AOS at: https://youtu.be/1Pwcc2rilz0

[ANS thanks Charlie Sufana, AJ9N for the above information.]

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however, also tell us that near-light-speed travel comes
with all sorts of challenges. Luckily for all of us, NASA
addresses these in a recently-released animated video that
covers all the basics of interstellar travel! See it at:
https://youtu.be/l4u4wV_dOi0
[ANS thanks Universe Today for the above information]

*NASA Investigating Air Leak on ISS

NASA is tracking down the source of a minor air leak on the
International Space Station. Crewmembers of the station's
current Expedition 63 are in no immediate danger and will
spend the weekend in the orbiting laboratory's Russian segment,
inside the Zvezda service module, NASA officials said in an
update on Thursday, 20 August. Full story at https://bit.ly/34lVnZZ

[ANS thanks Space.com for the above information]

In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the
President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining
donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive
additional benefits. Application forms are available from the
AMSAT office.

Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at
one-half the standard yearly rate. Post-secondary school students
enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the
student rate for a maximum of six post-secondary years in this
status.

Contact Martha at the AMSAT office for additional student
membership information.

73,
This week's ANS Editor,
Casey Tucker, KI7UNJ
ki7unj at amsat dot org

Sent via AMSAT-BB at amsat.org. AMSAT-NA makes this open forum
available to all interested persons worldwide without requiring
membership. Opinions expressed are solely those of the author
and do not reflect the official views of AMSAT-NA.

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program!